

Dermatopathy Caused by Sarcoptic Mange in a Wild Raccoon Dog

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Introduction: Sarcoptic mange is a cause of pruritic skin disease in domestic dogs and a wide range of wild animals. Sarcoptic skin disease has been described mainly in wild canid populations such as coyotes, foxes and wolves in North America and Europe, and Japan. The importance of human sarcoptic mange has recently been emphasized, as human infestations with non-human strains of *Sarcoptes scabiei* have been reported. The population of wild raccoon dogs is rapidly growing in the Republic of Korea. This means humans have a high chance of coming in contact with wild raccoon dogs. Wild raccoon dogs with sarcoptic manges can cause zoonotic breakouts.

Materials and methods: An adult female wild raccoon dog was presented to the Veterinary Medical Center of Chungbuk National University with weakness, partial to almost total alopecia, and thickened or wrinkled skin. Clinical signs included dehydration and ataxia. A complete blood count, serum biochemistry, skin scraping smear, and intestinal parasites were examined for diagnosis.

Results: Severe eosinophilia, mild microcytic anemia and many sarcoptic manges were identified from a complete blood count and skin scraping test. On the basis of the examination's results, the presumptive diagnosis was dermatopathy caused by sarcoptic mange. Antiparasitic therapy for sarcoptic mange was performed with amitraz for 26 days and the clinical signs completely disappeared.

Clinical relevance: The wild raccoon dog was rescued by human and then transferred to our veterinary medical center. This means that severely infested wild raccoon dogs with sarcoptic mange have a high chance of coming in contact with humans and dogs. Preventive programs for parasitic control are always considered in wild animal rescue veterinary service, although sarcoptic mange control is very difficult in wild life.

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